

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /072 W

-----220739Z 007580 /10

R 211345Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RENEWED PMAC ATTEMPT TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH
ERITREAN INSURGENTS

1. A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT ON SATURDAY, JAN. 15, THE PMAC HAD INSTRUCTED THE ERITREAN COMMISSION (DR. IYOB GHEBRECHRISTOS AND COMPANY) TO ARRANGE TO INFORM INSURGENT REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT WAS WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM TO BEGIN TALKS WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS. PRESUMABLY THE COMMISSION IS UTILIZING THE DELEGATION OF ELDERS TO INITIATE THE CONTACT AND EXTEND THE OFFER.

2. WE HAVE NO COLLABORATIVE INFORMATION YET. MOREOVER, IT IS
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UNCLEAR FROM OUR MEAGRE INFO WHETHER THE OFFER IS DIRECTED TO ONE OR BOTH ERITREAN INSURGENT GROUPS. THIS OFFER IS REPORTED TO BE THE PMAC RESPONSE TO THE URGINGS OF THE MILITARY (SECOND DIVISION) DELEGATION NOW IN ADDIS (ASMARA 0041 - 180700Z) TO SEEK NON-MILITARY MEANS OF ENDING CONFLICT. FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ELDERS HAVE RECENTLY OBTAINED AGREEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK IN ITS NAME. ITS PREVIOUS UNOFFICIAL

STATUS WAS CONSIDERED A HANDICAP IN DEALING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INSURGENTS AND THE ELDERS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN PRESSING FOR SOME MORE REGULAR STATUS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION. PERHAPS THESE TWO DEVELOPMENTS ARE INTERRELATED.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW IN THIS, ESSENTIALLY RENEWED, OFFER EXCEPT THE TIMING; AND THE STUMBLING BLOCK MAY WELL CONTINUE TO BE "NO PRECONDITIONS", SINCE THE INSURGENTS HAVE STEADILY INSISTED ON THE ONE PRECONDITION OF "INDEPENDENCE". THE TIMING OF THE PMAC OFFER MAY BE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF RECENT MILITARY SETBACKS, WORSENING RELATIONS WITH SUDAN, AND DISAFFECTION AMONG THE TROOPS, BUT UNFORTUNATE IN SIGNALLING TO THE INSURGENTS ITS APPARENT DEGREE OF DESPERATION. THE EPF/PLF SEEM TO BELIEVE THEY HAVE ACHIEVED MOMENTUM IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND MAY VIEW THIS NEW PMAC INITIATIVE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DISTRESS. THE INSURGENTS MAY NOW BE RELUCTANT TO TALK WHILE FURTHER SUCCESS IN THE FIELD COULD ADVANCE THEIR CAUSE APPRECIABLY.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, PLANNING MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASMARA00051
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0071
Format: TEL
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabbdv.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 3543614
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Subject: POSSIBLE RENEWED PMAC ATTEMPT TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH ERITREAN INSURGENTS
TAGS: PINS, ET, ELF, PLF
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